

No (NEVER)-Till + Cover Crops + Precision Nutrient Management + Buffers and Smarter Drainage Systems

Indiana has invested significant time and energy to farmers, partners, and employees to promote Soil Health through Conservation Cropping Systems (CCS), and the on-the-ground results show that the investments = SUCCESS!

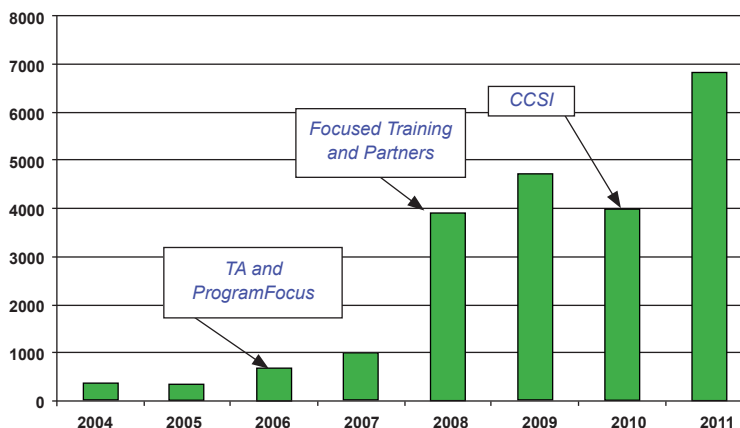
The most difficult piece of Conservation Cropping Systems for Indiana farmers to adopt has been cover crops...

Indiana's Road to SUCCESS:

- **2002 – 2005** = Indiana Conservation Tillage Initiative – focused on no-till corn
- **2006 – present** = Emphasis on systems in planning, education/ outreach, and programs in NRCS
- **2008 – present** = Commitment to systems through training of all partners
- **2010 – present** = Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) and On-Farm Network
- **Present – Future** = Actively engage **Private Sector Providers** and **Monitoring**



INDIANA APPLIED COVER CROP ACRES



Why Conservation Cropping Systems in Indiana?

- Conservation Cropping Systems (No-Till + Cover Crops + Nutrient Management + Buffers)
 60 acres treated = **15 staff hours** according to ABC 2010 data
 - Benefits: Water Quality (Nutrients + Sedimentation) + Erosion + Air Quality + Energy + Wildlife

Verses:

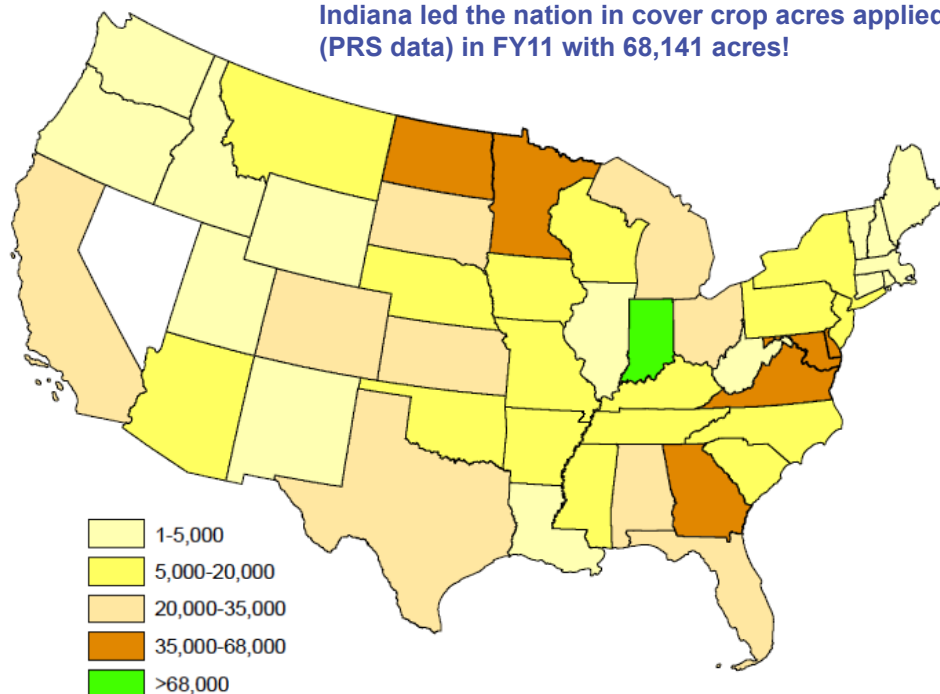
- Gully Treatment (Grassed Waterway + Mulch + Sub-Surface Drain + Grade Stabilization Structure)
 1 acre treated = **40+ staff hours** according to ABC 2010 data
 - Benefits: Water Quality (Nutrients + Sedimentation) + Erosion + Air Quality + Energy + Wildlife

Key Points to Indiana's Success:

- Soil Health sells conservation to farmers once they understand it
 - Farmers need educated and High-Quality technical assistance to successfully overcome the risks
- Conservation Cropping Systems are time-efficient and provide significant results
- A consistent commitment from all partners



Indiana led the nation in cover crop acres applied (PRS data) in FY11 with 68,141 acres!



Through Indiana's Tillage Transect, 180,000+ acres of cover crops were planted in 2011!